UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.1/50/L.61
17 November 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 71 (b)

REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Regional confidence-building measures

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/50/L.20/Rev.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of the operative paragraphs 1, 10 and 11 of draft resolution A/C.1/50/L.20/Rev.1, the General Assembly would:

(a) Take note of the report of the Secretary-General on regional confidence-building measures, 1/ which deals with the sixth and seventh meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, held at Brazzaville in March and August 1995;

(b) Request the Secretary-General to continue to provide assistance to the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee and to establish a trust fund to which Member States and governmental and non-governmental organizations may make additional voluntary contributions for the implementation of the programme of work of the Committee;

(c) Request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session a report on implementation of the resolution.

B. Relationship of the requests to the proposed programme of work

2. The above requests are related to major programme I, Maintenance of peace and security, disarmament and decolonization, programme 7, Disarmament, of the revised medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. 2/ They are programmed under activity 2, Parliamentary services, within subprogramme 4, Assistance to developing countries on disarmament issues: regional centres; fellowships, training and advisory services, of programme 7, Disarmament, and fall under subsection 2C.4, Disarmament, of section 2, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. 3/

C. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

3. The activities required for implementation of the requests contained in operative paragraphs 10 and 11 of the draft resolution with respect to the provision of assistance to the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee and submission of a report to the General Assembly are programmed in the proposed programme budget for the 1996-1997 biennium under subsection 2C.4, Disarmament. They would be carried out under activity 2, Parliamentary services, within subprogramme 4, Assistance to developing countries on disarmament issues: regional centres; fellowships, training and advisory services, of programme 7, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 as revised, and hence are provided for within resources proposed under section 2 for the biennium 1996-1997. In that regard, continued assistance would be rendered to the two ministerial meetings which the Committee holds every year.

4. The two regular annual meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee, which are financed from the United Nations regular budget, form part of its activities. Its full programme of work includes consultation of Ministers of Defence and of Interior as well as Chiefs of Staff of the armed forces of the Committee's member States; studies; training programmes; and political missions carried out by members of the Bureau of the Committee in member States that are engaged in conflicts. Furthermore, States members of the Committee have begun establishing in their respective armed forces, units specializing in peace operations and have expressed the need for these units to be appropriately trained. Arrangements are also under way for the establishment of an inter-State general staff to address crisis management in the subregion, and appropriate ways and means are being explored for the formal signing of the recently adopted and initialled non-aggression pact among the Committee's member States.

5. In response to paragraph 10 of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would therefore establish a trust fund to meet the financial requirements (other than those funded under the regular budget of the United Nations, i.e., the two regular annual meetings) for full implementation of the programme of work of the Committee. The Secretary-General would accordingly invite voluntary financial contributions from States Members of the United Nations, governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as individuals in order to strengthen the capacity of the Committee to discharge its programme of work effectively. The

establishment of the trust fund would have no financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations.

D. Modifications required in the proposed programme of work of 1996-1997

6. The requests contained in the draft resolution would fall under activity 2, Parliamentary services, of subprogramme 4, Assistance to developing countries on disarmament issues: regional centres; fellowships, training and advisory services, of programme 7, Disarmament, under section 2, Political affairs. Accordingly, no modification would be required.

E. Conclusions

7. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 makes provision for substantive servicing of two regular annual meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee under subprogramme 4, Assistance to developing countries on disarmament issues: regional centres; fellowships, training and advisory services, of programme 7, Disarmament, under section 2, Political affairs. Additional requirements would therefore not arise under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 in that respect.

8. Accordingly, should the General Assembly approve draft resolution A/C.1/50/L.20/Rev.1, no additional requirements would arise under section 2C of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

9. In addition, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would take appropriate action in the establishment of the Trust Fund of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, to meet the other costs involved in the full implementation of the programme of work of the Committee.

Notes

1/ A/50/474.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 and corrigendum (A/47/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1), vol I.

3/ Ibid., Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/50/6/Rev.1), vol. I.